

New York Tribune.

First to Last—The Truth—News—Editorials—Advertisements.

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policy that led to it, then there is but one course for a nation honoring itself, caring for its citizens. We are not yet sunk to the Chinese level or become totally dead to all that makes a nation a continuing force in human history.

In the jungles of Hindustan when a man-eating tiger approaches the vicinity of a village and begins to prey upon the inhabitants these wretched creatures prepare propitiatory offerings, kill animals to satisfy his hunger, in the hope that their children may be spared. But the tiger, having tasted human blood, scorns all such substitutes, rejects all such offerings.

Let us not mistake the German tiger. Let us not imagine that by any tributes, any prayerful courtesies, we shall persuade him to turn aside from the paths he has entered. If we cannot drive him from his lair, from the position which enables him to kill our children, by any other means, then we must go out and share in the work of killing him; we must join with the other villages and hamlets in a tiger battue; we must do our share that men and women and children may hereafter be safe.

The thing that German naval officers have done to American men, women and children was an act of war as well as a deed of barbarism. It has been endorsed by the German Government. If it is to be repeated there is but one course for the President and for this country. We shall not invite peace but a new massacre if we fail to make the Germans understand that to prevent a repetition of the Lusitania affair we shall fight. From last Friday some millions of Americans will ceaselessly regret that there are not American army corps in Flanders, fighting not for France or Britain, not even for Belgium, but for civilization, for humanity, for all that sweetness and light mean in a world suddenly brought face to face with the Hun and the Vandal.

Let Germany but announce that she purposes to repeat her offense against us, against humanity, and all Mr. Wilson's task will be done. He might then lead, but he could not restrain, a nation looking from the grim spectacle of the women and children on the pier at Queenstown, poor, mute evidences of the meaning of the German policy of "terribleness" to those other, living children, against whom German rage may now be directed. One question remains to be answered; after that our action will be automatic.

A Buggy Ride.

It seems a long time since a more appealing idyll has come to the attention of a faded, gasoline-ridden public than the brief story of the two sailor lads who went buggy riding Sunday. They hired on old horse and buggy, that almost forgotten combination sacred to Sunday afternoons in the country during the golden era of the nineteenth century (survivals of this sort must of necessity be old), and with their pancake hats lying in the bottom of their quaint vehicle they joggled along contentedly toward White Plains.

That is all, so far as the printed plot goes; but one must not forget the apple blossoms they saw and sniffed on their leisurely way, the gentle May breezes from verdant May meadows which stirred their youthful locks caressingly, the voluble greetings from tree top and barnyard and swamp, lost neither through speed nor throb of motor, which spoke to them of home.

Only true dreamers could have conceived such an outing. But, then, it takes true dreamers to make good fighters.

Home Rule for Cities.

The home rule amendment to the constitution prepared on behalf of the Mayors' conference is without doubt the most important proposition on that subject with which the Constitutional Convention will have to deal. It undertakes to grant a complete and all-inclusive right to each city in the state to handle its affairs as a majority of its electors want them handled, whether that city be New York or the smallest upstate community. It wipes out distinctions between first, second and third class cities. The basis of this amendment is that cities shall make and amend their own charters, shall fix the salaries and duties of officials paid out of the city treasury, the Legislature being barred from passing mandatory office-creating and salary-fixing laws; shall decide what constitutes a public utility and have power to acquire, own and operate all such, including transit lines, water plants, lighting facilities, markets and the like; shall have adequate powers as to fiscal policies and local taxation.

As to the need for such constitutional provision there can be no doubt. Every municipality has felt it at some time or other. Buffalo's fight for years to get a commission form of government charter from the Legislature and New York's present situation with regard to millions of dollars of mandatory expenditures decreed by Albany each year are sufficient illustrations. The Mayors' conference is not an aggregation of theorists. Its members have—most of them, at any rate—had cold, practical experience in the handling of municipal affairs, which has taught them the desirability of greater freedom, greater flexibility, greater responsibility also, for city officials. It is that experience which dictated the effort to have this proposed amendment adopted and which is written into its provisions. The terms of those provisions may or may

not meet the favor of the convention, but certainly some such grant of powers should find its place in the new constitution. The benefit would be felt not alone in the cities, but in the Legislature, which, having adopted a general city law applicable to all, would be freed from the hundreds of local charter amendments which now load its calendars and waste public time and money.

Education for Park Vandals.

The police made an excellent start on their clean park crusade Sunday. Hundreds of summonses were served on persons caught violating the ordinances in minor respects, while those guilty of more serious breaches, or of defiance to the police, were arrested and haled to court forthwith. There they were duly warned of the gravity of their offense and were fined. The temper of the bench was indicated by Chief Magistrate McAdoo's declaration: "If I remain here these fines will be increased."

Continuation of such work is bound to bring about a permanent beneficial effect in a short time. The signs warning against the throwing of rubbish around the parks have heretofore been taken more or less as a joke. Certainly no general, consistent effort has been made to enforce the mandates against vandalism, and the Park Department itself has not had men enough to guard against the thousands of hoodlums who chose to scatter newspapers, lunch boxes, nut shells and other litter over the grass and paths rather than to dump the stuff into the numerous rubbish cans provided for that purpose. This is not a campaign of punishment; it is a campaign of education, though, unfortunately, punishment is needed in many cases to give point to the lesson. It must be continued until the individuals, careless enough, malicious enough or ignorant enough to deface the people's parks are few and far between.

Dethroning Dirt.

If it is true that clothes do not make the man, is it not at least probable that neither do they mar him? And this must apply as well to clean and appropriate athletic apparel as to street or drawing room wear. Otherwise it might be hard to account for the Yale victory in the dual track meet at Princeton.

Not so long ago it was the generally accepted belief among track athletes in America that to change one's willed and worn shirt and trunk for a fresh suit brought bad luck. But, on the word of a professional commentator, "it was difficult to see how Princeton track men could make respectable time; their suits were so heavy with dirt as to add, as it appeared, pounds extra weight." While, on the other hand, "members of the Yale team were immaculate in freshly laundered costumes."

Obviously there must be something wrong with our pet national theory that the sportsman with the irreproachable costume is always the duffer of the party, that soil and rags are necessary adornments of nerve and skill and luck. It is even possible that if cleanliness is next to godliness it has a tendency to add to godliness, in this case to the feet. But it seems better to be conservative. Perhaps the only real difference it makes is one affecting the sensibilities of the spectators.

Whatever the substance is which a Newfoundland citizen has discovered, renders obnoxious to it is applied invisible, cannot we import enough to cover the Postoffice?